

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

This application is believed to be in condition for allowance because the claims, as amended, are believed to be non-obvious and patentable over the cited references. The following paragraphs provide the justification for this belief. In view of the following reasoning for allowance, the Applicant hereby respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration of the subject patent application.

1.0 Allowable Subject Matter:


In the Final Office Action of January 4, 2008, claims 5-7 were indicated as including allowable subject matter. In particular, the Office Action indicated that claims 5-7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the subject matter claim 5, which depends directly from independent claim 1. As such, claims 1, 2-4 and 6-14, now include allowable subject matter in view of the allowable limitations incorporated into independent claim 1 by way of the present amendment. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-4 and 6-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

CONCLUSION

In view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4 and 6-14 are in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-14, and to pass this application to issue at the earliest opportunity. Additionally, in an effort to further the prosecution of the subject application, the Applicant kindly invites the Examiner to telephone the Applicant's attorney at (805) 278-8855 if the Examiner has any additional questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,



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